

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 4 with the following:

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a preform assembly 20 in accordance with one presently preferred embodiment of the invention. Preform assembly 20 includes a molded plastic preform 22 having a body 24 and an integral finish 26. Finish 26 in this embodiment of the invention preferably includes a radially outwardly projecting circumferential flange 28, sometimes referred to as a capping flange or support flange. An external protrusion 30 is formed on finish ~~28~~ 26 during the preform molding operation at a position spaced from flange 28 and disposed between flange 28 and body 24. Protrusion 30, in the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, comprises a circumferentially continuous or segmented external annular bead having an upper surface 32 parallel to and spaced from the lower surface 34 of flange 28. (Directional words such as “upper” and “lower” are employed by way of description and not limitation with respect to the upright orientation of the preform and container illustrated in FIGS. 1-3. Directional words such as “radial” and “circumferential” are employed by way of description and not limitation with respect to the central axis of container finish 26, which typically is concentric with the central axis of preform body 24.) Finish 26 typically also includes one or more external threads 36, beads or other suitable means for attaching a closure to the blow molded container. Threads 36 alternatively can be formed in a post-molding operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 6 with the following:

FIG. 6 illustrates a modified embodiment of the invention, in which the attachment object 56 to be secured to the preform includes a label 58 secured to an expansible attachment ring 60. Label attachment 56 may be secured to the preform as previously described and then, when placed in the blow mold, oriented at a desired position with respect to the blow mold cavity so that label 58 appears at a desired position on the body of the container. Label ~~50~~ 58 will be an integral part of the blow molded container sidewall, and attachment ring 60 may be removed from the label by separation along serrations 62.